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However to make Cathay a province of Tartary is a needless belittling of Milton's picture, because his identification of China and Cathay is not an inconsistency, but may be explained by a fact interesting for the history of geography. For ages China was known by two names, one given by those who approached it by the overland route, the other by those who went thither by sea. Not only was this true in Milton's time, but there was still debate whether or not China and Cathay were the same (Purchas, *Pilgrims* III, iv. 801). The question is elsewhere debated in the *Pilgrims*, with which Milton was somewhat familiar, as is attested by the notes to his *Brief History of Moscovia and of other less known Countries lying Eastward of Russia as far as Cathay*. This same work gives evidence that he had studied the overland route to China in writings where it appears as Cathay. Some of those writings, the 'Russian Relations in Purchas,' he thought excellent. He may have debated the question, and decided incorrectly. He may have known that China was Cathay and yet, to complete his roll of 'cities of old and modern Fame,' have deliberately used the two names to aid in different ways in producing the total effect, for 'Cambalu, seat of Cathaian Can,' suggests military power, and 'Paquin of Sinaean Kings,' more peaceful splendor.

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BRIEF MENTION

The Evolution of Literature, by A. S. Mackenzie (New York: Thomas Y. Crowell & Co.), is offered as a much-needed manual of Comparative Literature. It is "the product of years of patient research," composed in humble acknowledgment of the temerity of such an undertaking, but sustained by a high seriousness that will not fail to convince the reader of the author's right to present his report of a Captain Anson's voyage around the world of literature. The author is philosophic, sympathetic, and scientific. He aims not to make all-comprehensive knowledge easy and thus encourage superficial omniscience or charter a roving commission through the ages prematurely. Educational plans are rightly demanding the comparative study of literature. Philology has shown the value of the method. But the application of the method to literature begets a long list of dangers. The author of this well-constructed and soundly instructive book is aware of all the pitfalls, and he has set down nothing for the encouragement of the cheap 'get-wise-quick' aspirations of the indolent or the incompetent. The titles of the author's chapters cannot be recited here. But an indication of

them may be given by noticing that the words primitive and barbaric, autocratic and democratic are the leading designations of man, society, and literature as here considered under broad anthropologic theory. The necessity of compression of matter and reduction of details has not driven the author to take refuge in an excess of generalization. Facts are in the main allowed to suggest the underlying principle. Occasionally a detail springs into unexpected prominence, as, for example, this personal judgment: "Among living American poets the highest place seems to belong to Lloyd Mifflin, the most finished sonneteer ever born out of Europe." Mr. Mifflin's extraordinary output of sonnets surely deserves wide acknowledgment; it confounds the nonsense of a judgment cited on the first page (cited in the blind fashion, "a well-known critic," that deserves nothing but condemnation), "that a half-dozen sonnets are enough for any one to write." An extensive bibliography is distributed in the footnotes.

There remains no period in the Romance literatures for which it is not becoming easy to secure an extensive selection of the leading works. This is in no small degree furthered by the various collections now in course of publication with the primary aim of providing at modest price a large number of reliable texts. The *Bibliotheca romanica* (Strassburg: Heitz) has passed its 124th volume, and is now being followed by *Les classiques français du moyen âge* (Paris: Champion), the *Clásicos castellanos* (Madrid: La Lectura, Paris: Champion), and the *Scrittori d'Italia* (Bari: Laterza). None of these series is expensive; some are remarkably inexpensive. All should be welcomed by every student of Romance life and thought, and they can not fail to result in wider reading and better first-hand knowledge of literature.

ERRATA

In *M. L. N.*, May, 1911, the following corrections should be made: P. 150, col. 1, l. 22, for *fus* read "*feaus* or *fauis*." P. 157, col. 2, l. 39, for "That the author is a New Mexican" read "The fact that the author has lived many years in New Mexico." P. 159, col. 1, add the following footnotes:

¹¹ *Letter xxxvii*, vol. III, p. 97."

¹² Hecht, *Thomas Percy und William Shenstone*, Strassburg, 1909, p. 81."

Page 152, col. 2, l. 36; p. 153, col. 1, l. 47, for Coleman read Colman.

Page 153, col. 1, l. 12, for Diamond read Dimond.

Page 151, col. 2, l. 27, for 65,000 read 6500.